

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 284683

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IR, IT

SUBJECT: TUDEH PARTY CHIEF'S VISIT WITH BERLINGUER

REF: TEHRAN 11288

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN COMMENTING TO IRANIANS
ON THEIR STATEMENT (REFTEL) ABOUT ESKANDARI-BERLINGUER
MEETING:

WE ATTACH NO GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MEETING. THERE IS NO
BASIS FOR ASSUMING IT TOOK PLACE AT MOSCOW'S REQUEST.
MORE LIKELY EXPLANATIONS FOR MEETING ARE:

(A) ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INCLINED TO BE
FRIENDLY TOWARD STRUGGLING "PROGRESSIVES" IN OTHER
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IF LATTER ARE ALSO COMMUNIST AND

(B) PCI PROBABLY FINDS IT USEFUL WITH LARGE AND POLITICALLY
ACTIVE IRANIAN STUDENT POPULATION IN ITALY TO BE FRIENDLY
TO TUDEH LEADER. WE DO NOT SEE MEETING AS SIGNIFICANT

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BOOST TO TUDEH PARTY OR ITS LEADER, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE

SOME SMALL PIGGYBACK ADVANTAGES IN BEING LINKED TO
BERLINGUER, WHOSE ATTEMPTS TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF INDE-
PENDENCE FROM MOSCOW ARE WELL KNOWN. KISSINGER

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